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FOR RELEASE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Henry V. Larom, director of the Montana State University Writers Conference and widely published author of boys' books, has resigned from the MSU English faculty to accept the deanship of Rockland Community College, Rockland County, N. Y., MSU President H. K. Newburn announced.

The two-year instituion, operated by Rockland County as part of the State University of New York, will open this fall, Larom said. Like other institutions in the State University system, the college will be geared to the needs of the community, he explained. Because so many Rockland County residents work in nearby New York City in the communications field and the arts, the new college will concentrate on a liberal arts program.

The college will prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions and will also grant terminal associate of arts and associate of applied science degrees, according to its new dean. The administration also plans an adult education program, which may include courses at the graduate level, he added.

"I'm terribly sorry to leave Montana, where I've enjoyed working in the English Department and with the people of the state through my connections with the Montana Institute of the Arts - and with all the Montanans who have come to the Writers Conference over the years," Larom said.

"Certainly I hope to get back to spend some time during summers," he continued. The only reason I am leaving is that helping to found a college is such a challenge that I can't resist it."

(more)

After his graduation from MSU in 1931, Larom was a teacher and "dude wrangler" at the Valley Ranch School, a Wyoming preparatory school for boys, until 1933. He then returned to his native New York to become a radio writer and copy director for the advertising firm of Batten, Barton, Durstine and Osborn, working on Cavalcade of America, March of Time, and many other shows. He also served as consultant on radio to the adult education bureau of the New York State Board of Education.

Larom returned to MSU in 1950 to earn a master's degree in creative writing. He succeeded Joseph Kinsey Howard as director of the Rocky Mountain Roundup of Regional Arts, a program established in 1950 by the University under a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation and directed by Howard until his death in August 1951.

Larom joined the MSU English faculty in the fall of 1952 and continued as director of the MSU Writers Conference, which originated as part of the Roundup program. He has been active in the Montana Institute of the Arts, and he served for a time on the MIA board of directors as state writing chairman.

He is the author of six books for boys. One of the books in his Mountain Pony series won a Boys' Club of America award, and his latest book, "Ride Like an Indian!" was a Children's Weekly Book Club selection. Four of his juveniles are included in the Grosset and Dunlap Great Horse Story series.

The Laroms will leave Tuesday for New York, where they will be staying temporarily with relatives in Scarsdale. They can be reached at Rockland Community College, 19 College Road, Suffern, N. Y.

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